787 the people of Formosa regard the practice of sorcery.[16]

C. Taboo

787 The belief that the world is full of
791 spirits which control all aspects of life and every part of the universe has led to a system of taboo. A doubtful science called feng-shui (literally meaning "wind and water") is concerned with a study of the spirits dwelling in earth and mountains. The breaking of earth for the purpose of erecting a house, opening a mine, or digging a grave site at a certain time and on a certain date can begin only after a geomancer has assured the questioner that the spirits concerned will not be disturbed. For more or less the same reason, the date of a marriage or the time a funeral procession should begin is determined by a fortuneteller.

787 It should be made clear that these beliefs and practices are observed by a limited number of people among those who

16. Keirai So, Taiwan shukyo to meishin roshu [Religion and Superstitious Practices in Taiwan], Taihoku, Taiwan shukyo kenkyukai, 1938, pp. 34-44.